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PRICE LIST 1932

NURSERY STOCK

JOHN ROBERTSON'S NURSERY

HOT SPRINGS, SOUTH DAKOTA ARMY

RECEIVED



The Anoka Is Noted For Its Early Bearing

—A PERSONAL MESSAGE—

We planted the first apple trees on this place in the spring of 1893, and during the next few years planted the main portion of the apple orchard of 20 acres, as it now stands. The majority of the apple trees are now over 20 years old, so have been in prime bearing size for several years. During this time we have been growing other leading divisions of fruits adapted to this section, including currants, gooseberries, raspberries, grapes, and plums in quantities for market.

During all these years too, we have made it a part of business to try out many varieties of fruits, especially the new ones coming out each year through State Experiment Stations. Having many varieties on the places gives us a better understanding in coming to conclusions as to the comparative worth of each new sort. It is only occasionally that we find a new sort having enough superior qualities to credit it with a place among the leaders. Trying out so many sorts by top grafting and otherwise is rather expensive by way of time used. We make notations of vigor and hardiness of the trees and shrubbery, as well as such items as time of ripening, size, quality, keeping, etc. of the fruit. But we like this work; and it is the only way to arrive at a certain personal estimate of value. During the past 15 years we have given a lot of attention to trying out varieties of pears, and now think we have a few worthy sorts.

This past year of 1931 was a very unfavorable one for fruit production, so we did not make much progress in learning more about new varieties, but we did have some fruit for market, and an exhibit at our State Fair that was creditable for such a year. This was the

first, during over 30 years that trees have been in bearing, that late spring freezes caused near a complete failure.

Our specialty is fruit growing. The nursery part is carried on as a side issue. Our idea in selling nursery stock has been to furnish those having confidence in us, stock of the best varieties, true to name. We do not offer anything for sale 'till it has proven itself by bearing fruit in the orchard. The orchard is here for inspection, and we like having those interested come and look things over, especially about time fruits that each is most interested in may be ripening.

One makes a success of fruits, ornamentals, and forest trees about in proportion to the degree of liking and knowledge he has for such; and there is always more that may be learned to advantage. The Northwest has special problems of its own. For a number of years past I've tried helping those living on dry, subsoil lands to grow trees and fruits, through articles in the Horticultural Department of "The Dakota Farmer" published at Aberdeen, South Dakota. Another source of help may be had through joining the South Dakota State Horticultural Society. The Society needs your support, and in return will try helping you above the value asked as membership fee. North and South Dakota are now combined in issuing a monthly magazine full of helpful articles that goes to each member; and besides this you are entitled to a selection from a goodly list of choice plants, including fruits, flowers, and vegetables. Send one dollar, the annual fee, to R. W. Vance, Pierre, S. D.

I write this as a personal message. I answer many individual letters for information during the year; but in many instances it is impossible to write as fully as I wish doing. We still are interested in the welfare and behaviour of our goods after they leave our hands, so I am always very pleased to hear from those who have purchased nursery stock from us in years past, saying how they have succeeded.

VARIETIES TO PLANT

For the family orchard there should be a few early apples as well as some of the later sorts; but it is usually a mistake to plant very many of the early ripening kinds. There should be a variety of crabs, as most in this line are hardy and do well. Plant more Wealthy trees than any other apple sort.

Plums, and small fruits such as currants and gooseberries, are easily grown and come into bearing early. Raspberries are a success, with proper care, including winter covering.

I like to have customers make their own selections as much as possible when ordering; but it often happens that the customer does not feel certain as to what he should choose. In such cases simply tell us something about your soil and location; and if you already have some fruits planted, tell us as near as you can what they are, so we will not duplicate these too much. We are always pleased when asked to use our own judgement in selecting varieties to fill an order.

SIZES AND TRAINING

I advise choosing one and two year old stock for general planting. Exception to this rule may be allowed where few trees are being set. Small stock costs less, is more easily handled and planted, and makes a quicker recovery in starting new growth.

Then too, small trees are more easily trained in forming a head at the desired height. Low headed trees bear earliest, produce the most

fruit, live longest, and are the most easily sprayed, pruned, and picked. They are least affected by winds and sunscald.

PLANTING

Early spring is the time to plant in the dry northwest. Apple trees should be planted not less than 30 feet apart each way, so as to allow for spread of roots in search of moisture as the tree grows larger, without competition with the roots of other trees or plants. Plums, and the smaller shrubbery do not require so much space, but it is always wise to allow plenty. A good general guide in spacing is to have in mind that the roots of a plant always reach as far on all sides as the height of the plant above ground; so it is important that each plant have enough space, as it reaches the age of maturity to give most returns. In the beginning of an orchard, one row of small fruits may be set midway between each two rows of apple trees, and dug out at a later time, when the apple trees have reached the size to require all the moisture that falls between. But do not plant two rows between, or fill up all space with garden stuff, as an excuse for cultivation. Moisture is taken from the soil mainly by growing vegetation; so do not plant anything close up to the trees, nor allow weeds to grow at any time. You need the moisture for your trees. These rules are mainly for growing trees on dry subsoil land, with natural rainfall.

Trees should be planted an inch or two deeper than the collar mark shows they were in the nursery. The finished planting surface should be left rather sloping towards the tree, and the rows should never be ridged through the process of plowing and cultivating in after years. All limbs of newly set trees should be cut back about two thirds of last years growth.

ORDER EARLY

The nursery stock that you get from us is all grown at home. By doing this way we know that everything is true to name, and that each fruit tree has a hardy root system. We do not practice the common custom of buying at wholesale from other nurseries in lines we run short in. When a variety is gone that is the end of it till another supply is grown. When your order reaches us early, you still have time to order elsewhere if we reply that we are sold out in certain items.

PARCEL POST

Those living at a distance from the railroad can get very good service by parcel post. It is very convenient to send the smaller sizes this way; and by cutting the tops back as they should be after planting, we can mail pretty fair sized stock. Those ordering this way should make allowance for postage.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Five of one kind, and ten of not over three varieties, at ten rates. Fifty allowed at hundred rates; but not over five varieties allowed in each fifty. Where long lists of one or two of a kind are wanted, they must be paid for at single rates. No orders booked or shipped until paid for in full. Send enough money to cover cost of sizes and varieties of your choice, and say if you will allow us to substitute other sizes and varieties for any we may be out of. It is not our intention to substitute without permission, though we sometimes do this in late orders, when it is hurry-up-time to plant. If very particular that each item be according to order, please mention this. Any balance due a customer is returned not later than date of filling his order. We do not try to keep a balance

by suggesting that the customer take something he has not asked for. Each one is notified by letter at the time his stock is sent, whether by mail or express. If there is any complaint at the time you receive stock notify me at once. We do not replace "free" nor at "half price," but we do try making our mistakes good.

Address all orders to John Robertson, Box 237, Hot Springs, South Dakota.

VARIETIES AND PRICE

APPLES AND CRABS—Named in order of ripening; Yellow Transparent, Anoka, Duchess, Hibernal, Wealthy, McIntosh and Gano; and the crabs: Whitney, Dolgo, Olga, Ivan and Sugar. The last four sorts of these are of the Hansen origin, and are fine. Dolgo, and Olga are best for jellies.

We have a few trees in each of Windsor, Sasha, Lobo and Earlham, and a few other new sorts that we think most promising.

2 to 3 feet size, 25c each; per 10, \$2.25; per 50, \$10.00

3 to 4 feet size, 40c each; per 10, \$3.50; per 50, \$15.00

4 to 6 feet size, 60c each; per 10, \$5.00; per 50, \$20.00

CHERRIES—We have the common red, and black to offer in 2 to 3 feet size at 40c each; per 10, \$3.50. Larger sizes at 60c each; per 10, \$5.50.

PLUMS—We have the Opata, Oka, and Zumbra, in sand cherry hybrids, named in order of our estimation in value. Two or more sorts should be planted, in order to fertilize and bear well. The Tecumseh, Waneta, Kaga, and Pembina, are of the best in real plum sorts. While Tecumseh is not quite as large as Waneta, we like it better. Kaga has same apricot flavor as Hanska when cooked, and bears better. Pembina is hardest. We also have trees in small lots, of Sapa, Radisson, Minn. No. 194, and Minn. No. 83, and a few others.

2 to 3 feet size, 40c each; per 10, \$3.50.

3 to 5 feet size, 60c each; per 10, \$5.00

GRAPE—We have the Monitor, Dakota, and Suelter, named in order of ripening, and hardy without winter cover. Price 25c each; per 10, \$2.00. There are strong growers, bearing medium sized fruit, not of high quality.

GOOSEBERRIES—The Carrie is a medium sized berry, and very dependable. The Josselyn is large in berry and does well. The Kataga is a new one from Hansen, that is worthy. Price of large strong plants, 20c each, per 10, \$1.50.

CURRENTS—We have a few plants of Wilder, and Diploma, large fruit kinds, at 25c each; per 10, \$2.00.

RASPBERRIES—The Latham is our leader as a red sort. Price each 10c; per 10, 75c; per 25, \$1.25; per 50, \$2.00; per 100, \$3.50.

STRAWBERRIES—We usually have some plants, but not often enough to spare above local demands.

ROSES—We have the Tetonkaha, and Harrison's Yellow, both hardy without winter protection. Price 40c each; per 10, \$3.50.

SIBERIAN, OF FLOWERING ALMOND—This is a low growing shrub, having pretty pink flowers very early in spring. Desirable for ornamental purposes. Price 25c each; per 10, \$2.00.

SIBERIAN LAVATERA—This is a hardy perennial growing from 4 to 6 feet tall, coming from the roots each spring. This is similar to the hollyhock, but grows in clumps. Flowers pink. Price 25c each.